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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuse structure comprising:
an insulator layer; and
~~an~~ a continuous conductive inverse-U shaped fuse extending through said insulator layer to an underlying wiring layer, and
wherein a portion of said fuse is positioned external to said insulator, with a gap juxtaposed between said insulator and said portion of said fuse, ~~and~~
~~wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse is electroplated.
3. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse is electroless plated.
4. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said fuse has a thickness in range of 100 angstroms to 350 angstroms.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse is perpendicular to and above said insulator layer.
7. (Original) The fuse structure in claim 1 further comprising an interface wall, wherein said interface wall further comprises a first side wall, a second side wall, and an inner wall, wherein said inner wall is disposed within said gap.
8. (Currently Amended) A fuse structure comprising:
an insulator layer; and

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~~an a continuous conductive~~ inverse-U shaped fuse extending through said insulator layer to an underlying wiring layer, and
wherein a portion of said fuse is positioned external to said insulator,
wherein said portion of said fuse is perpendicular to and above said insulator layer, and
~~wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure of claim 8, wherein said portion of said fuse is one of electroplated and electroless plated.
10. (Original) The fuse structure in claim 8 further comprising an interface wall, wherein said interface wall further comprises a first side wall, a second side wall, and an inner wall.
11. - 20. (Canceled).
21. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 1, wherein said portion of said fuse is surrounded by air.
22. (Previously Presented) The fuse structure in claim 8, wherein said portion of said fuse is surrounded by air.
23. (Canceled).
24. (Canceled).
25. (Currently Amended) An integrated circuit structure comprising:
a wiring layer having wiring elements;
an insulator layer covering said wiring layer; and
an a continuous conductive inverse-U shaped fuse extending completely through said insulator layer and being connected to said wiring elements,

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wherein said insulator layer forms an external surface of said integrated circuit structure and a portion of said fuse extends beyond said external surface, and
~~wherein said fuse comprises a continuous conductive element.~~

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said fuse forms a circuit with said wiring elements.

29. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said wiring elements are internal to said integrated circuit structure and are separated from an external portion of said integrated circuit structure by said insulator layer.

30. (Previously Presented) The integrated circuit structure in claim 25, wherein said portion of said fuse is plated.